

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1 to 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): An electrical switching device comprising:

a housing having interrupting chambers;

a cover capable of closing the housing; and

externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in the housing;

each interrupting chamber having disposed therein ~~at least one~~ an arc quenching device and a stationary switching contact for a cooperating movable switching contact,

the housing and the cover having formed therein guide and retaining elements ~~for both insertable cooling plates and arc splitter plate stacks defining configured to retain the arc quenching devices, wherein the arc quenching device is, alternatively, one of an arc splitter stack and a cooling plate, the arc splitter stack stacks being interchangeable with the cooling plate plates.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): The electrical switching device as recited in claim 5 wherein the guide and retaining elements include inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers and first retaining elements of the cover, the inner walls being configured to support the cooling plates being U-shaped and having outer legs the arc quenching device and being supported with the outer legs on the inner walls of the housing, the cooling plates having end faces facing away from the cover in pocket-like formations of the housing, the U-shaped cooling plates further being held down by and the first retaining elements configured to further holding down the arc quenching device.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The electrical switching device as recited in claim 5 wherein the guide and retaining elements include inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers and pocket-like second retaining elements of the cover, ~~the arc splitter plate stacks being secured with one side in the pocket-like second retaining elements~~ configured to secure the arc quenching device via a frictional and/or form-locking connection, and, when the cover is mounted, ~~the arc splitter plate stacks being supported between the inner walls of the housing~~ being positioned to support the arc quenching device between the inner walls.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The electrical switching device as recited in claim 5 wherein the guide and retaining elements includes arc splitter guide and retaining elements and cooling plate guide and retaining elements, the arc splitter guide and retaining elements being adjacent to the guide and cooling plate retaining elements in a direction of the terminal contacts.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An electrical switching device comprising:

- a housing having interrupting chambers and housing guide and retaining elements;
- a cover capable of closing the housing and having cover guide and retaining elements; and
- externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in the housing;
- a stationary switching contact located in each interrupting chamber, the stationary switching contact cooperating with a movable switching contact; and
- an arc quenching device located in each interrupting chamber, the arc quenching device being either an insertable cooling plate or an arc splitter stack but not both, the housing guide and retaining elements and the cover guide and retaining elements being configured to retain the arc quenching device and including both cooling plate guide and retaining elements and arc splitter stack retaining elements.